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WESTFIELD COLLEGE BULLETIN.

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COLLEGE CALENDAR

1912

SEPTEMBER

11. Wednesday---College Year Opens.

NOVEMBER

28. Thursday---Thanksgiving Day.

DECEMBER

20. Friday---Fall Term Closes.

1913

JANUARY

7. Tuesday---Winter Term Opens.
29. Wednesday---Semester Examinations Begin.
31. Friday---First Semester Closes.

FEBRUARY

3. Monday---Second Semester Opens.
22. Saturday---Washington's Birthday.
23. Sunday---Day of Prayer for Students.

MARCH

20. Thursday---Winter Term Closes.
25. Tuesday---Spring Term Opens.

JUNE

8. Sunday---Baccalaureate Sermon.
11. Wednesday---Commencement.

A United Brethren College in Illinois

A heading such as the above may seem somewhat strange and a lengthy discussion of it entirely unnecessary, but in view of the developments of the past two years and the adverse statements made with reference to our educational institution in Illinois, a few words may not be out of place. The purpose of this article, then, will be to establish the fact that there should be a United Brethren College in Illinois and that the doing away with such an institution on the part of the Church would be little short of suicidal.

In the first place the United Brethren need a college in Illinois for the sake of the young people who are to be educated for the Church rather than away from it. Where will the Church get its leaders, its pastors, and its missionaries if not from those trained in its own colleges? The need for trained leaders becomes all the more insistent as the demand for efficiency along all lines becomes greater. There is scarcely a missionary in the foreign field today who is not a college graduate. The Church must train its own leaders if it would have them.

We hear it said that the churches should go out of the educational business and should turn over to the state the problem of education. Those who make these foolish statements are either unthinking or else they have read history to little advantage and with less insight. After the fall of Rome the Chureh had almost complete control over education until the last few centuries. Universities and schools are the children of the Church, not of the state. The latter has been gradually taking over education to itself, but it owes the idea and the ground work to the Church.

This is not an attack upon the public schools, even though that has become popular of late. Our insistence is that there is a place between the public school and the university for the college. As a rule graduates of high schools are not of sufficient age nor mentality to begin work in the university, and quite often they have not the moral attainments necessary for resisting the temptations of university life. The university professor is often a specialist rather than a techer. He has little time and less patience to waste on the backward or dull student. In most cases the first two years of undergraduate work should be done in the college rather than in the university. We quote the following from a daily paper:

"Freedom is a good thing, but youth is exuberant and needs guidance. It is for the college authorities to insist on discipline, on rigid honesty, and sane, pure living. Evils should be resisted wherever a tendency thereto springs up. . . . . The most valuable feature of college life is its elevating and ennobling influence. To tolerate or blink at any demoralizing practice is to commit treason to the cause of education and character building. Happily, the college authorities are everywhere striving to eradicate recognized abuses." Note that this is the opinion of a secular paper an not of a religious organ.

Hence we maintain that the small college still has a place. It seems to us that if its existance was ever justifiable it is now. The things that it stands for, namely, scholarship and character, are the very qua ities needed at the present time. The Greeks and the Romans each tried the experiment of substituting a vocational, and practical education for a moral and intellectual one. The result was soon manifest by its effect upon the national life. Professor Andrew Fleming West in an article on Education and Intelligence, says: "So long as it remains true that 'man shall not live by bread alone,' all men, so far as they can possibly get the chance, should be trained to be bread winners---and something more. It is this 'something more' which has always measured, and we may well believe will always measure, the difference between subjection and freedom, between the man who cannot rise in the intellectual and moral scale and the man who can. As a mere matter of national economy, and quite apart from its overwhelming moral importance, it 'pays' a nation to have as many as possible of its citizens educated in 'something more' than bread winning. . . . . It is this 'something more' which, in the last analysis, makes the difference between the higher and lower forms of civilization." We believe, also, that there is such a thing as culture. And by culture we do not mean it in an artificial or conventional sense, but in its real meaning, that of a sympathetic understanding of the world, mutual and sincere friendship, a knowledge of books and of men, and being able to be "all things to all men." We do not say that such culture can be attained only through the college. It depends upon individual initiative and everlasting vigilance. But the college offers a certain and sure way to its attainment.

Now more specifically as to an United Brethren college in Illinois, we believe that our church is abundantly able to operate a college of its own in this state. Its membership is above twenty thousand, its wealth is expressed in hundreds of thousands. Last year Lower Wabash Conference raised $77,727.01 for all purposes (we have not the figures at hand for the Northern Illinois Conference). Of this sum only $522.68 went to Westfield College, or less than one per cent. It stands to reason that more than this amount can be raised for a college in Illinois. An average of ten cents per member would amount to $2,000.00. Is that too much for a college? Our Church is supporting colleges in states with less membership than it has in Illinois. Can not Illinois do what any other state can do?

If we have no college in Illinois, where shall our young people get their collegiate training? At another of our Church colleges? From the center of Illinois it is four hundred miles to Westerville, Kansas City or Toledo. This means that our young people would not attend any of those institutions. In other words, they would either attend the State University, some other denominational college (which is more probable), or forego a college education altogether.

Will our Church in Illinois rise to its opportunity and privilege? Her young people need the College. When they ask for bread will the Church give them a stone? Shall we place the emphasis upon material things, or upon the soul life? Shall we teach our children that worldly success and material well-being are the only things worth while? Is it not far better to transmute our wealth into character, intelligence, and righteousness through the agency of the Christian College?

The New Gymnasium.

We often hear it said that learning should have a practical purpose, and that sounds reasonable enough until we stop to inquire what that practical purpose is. Then we usually find that practical means simply money getting. But the aim of Westfield College is to develop her students physically, mentally and spiritually.

A man whose brain only is educated is top heavy, weak, and usually sickly. But without athletics the physical side is neglected and we know that the harder one studies, the more severe is the exercise necessary to maintain the proper balance. We often hear of students going to College and breaking down in their work. Work never killed any man. It was worry that did it. If those students had had proper physical exercise, they would not have broken down in their work. There is no reason why any student should not be better physically after going through college, having participated in athletics, than when he started; in fact, thousands are doing so every year. It takes courage to engage in athletics and it is universally true that the college graduates who are making the greatest success in life are those who are athletes.

Perhaps this condition of affairs should not exist, but nevertheless it is a fact that the rating of a school is often determined by the standing of its athletic teams. The athletic team represents and advertises the school to which it belongs just as much or more than the debating teams or concert companies. Students on considering a school inquire, "What kind of athletics do they have? Did they have a winning team?" Our purpose is to put out winning teams, but not at the expense of unfairness. Right first, then victory.

But this physical side of a student's life can not be developed without proper means. Equipment is secondary, room the more important. Our present gymnasium room in the administration building is small, too small for our needs. A new gymnasium is necessary to the life of Westfield College. We must have room for the classes in physical culture and for the basket ball teams. At present the basket ball teams are seriously handicapped in their matched contests with other schools, due to the fact that they are accustomed to playing upon a very small floor.

The new gymnasium is not a dream. Plans are being worked out for its erection. So in the near future we will have a new gymnasium, modernly equipped with shower baths, lockers, good lights, heat, and sufficient seating capacity for all spectators. We will have a main room large enough for all indoor athletics, a room which can be used for other functions when an extra large room is needed.

The expenses will not be so very great to begin with, for we are planning to build the main room and dressing rooms first, and then as the school grows, to build on additional rooms as they are needed.

Girls' Dormitory.

An insistent need of the College at the present time, and one of long standing, is a dormitory for girls. A Christian College, if it is to be worthy of the name, must provide not only for the intellectual, but also for the physical and moral well-being of its students.

The two latter are best secured and conserved by the means above mentioned. The dormitory is a helpful part of a college in three very specific ways: 1st, it attracts students; 2nd, it tends to hold them; 3rd, it is a strong and beneficial social force.

Dormitory life has always been regarded as an essential feature of college and university life. The two have invariably been closely associated, and it is well that it has been so. A college is responsible for the safety and security of its students. Parents think twice before sending their children, girls especially, to a college where there is no dormitory. They want to know in what surroundings their boys and girls will be placed. Westfield has been fortunate in always having plenty of good homes for the students that come to her, and is still fortunate in this respect. But if the student body is greatly increased, as it should be, a dormitory will be absolutely essential.

Secondly, a dormitory is a strong force in holding students. Dormitory life is community life on a smaller scale. Associations are formed, friendships are made which cannot be forgotten or overcome. Students desire to come back the next year.

Thirdly, this community life is most happy and beneficial. The influence of the life of one girl upon another, the mutual sharing of each other's joys and sorrows, the intimate associations, are no small part of a girl's education. The weak and timid girl is helped to a stronger life, the girl too forward is toned down by the kindly criticism of her associates. The good times together are never forgotten.

Such facts as these make the appeal for a dormitory compelling. Our college stands in a very vital need of one. Will not some one who reads these lines, whose heart goes out in behalf of boys and girls, and who is financially able, give a sufficient sum to meet this need? It may be made a source of infinite blessing to the life of many a girl.

Notes Worth While.

The College year opened Wednesday, September 11th. Rev. G. W. Bonebrake, pastor at Casey, gave a very helpful and appropriate address. The work of the College is moving right along. No complaint can justly be made against the character of the work done at Westfield College. The enrollment shows a twenty per cent increase over that of last year. This is gratifying, but great effort should be made by all the friends of the College to increase the enrollment to the 200 mark, which is about the number which could be accommodated with the present equipment of the College.

The Newell-Molyneaux Concert Company has already given one concert and is prepared to make dates for other engagements. Their work needs no recommendation. It is far better than that of many of the companies traveling under the direction of a lecture bureau. No one engaging them will be disappointed.

Attention is called to the course in Agriculture to be given next semester. Of the many so-called practical subjects which are being taught to-day, none is more practical than Agriculture. The teaching of it is no longer an experiment; its usefulness is being demonstrated every day. As the College is situated in an agricultural community it desires to make itself useful and helpful in this way.

If it is proper to speak of another need of the College, the library should not be omitted. Students must have tools to work with. The beginning of Harvard University was made by the donation of a few books. The friends of the College are invited to remember it in this way. Books on history, education, sociology, and literature are especially needed.

It is hoped that the articles on the gymnasium and the girls' dormitory will not be treated lightly. They are absolutely requisite for the continued and enlarged work of our College. Westfield College must be a growing institution. Standing still always results in decay.

A movement has been started locally for the payment of a large part of the College indebtedness. If this can be accomplished, and the chances seem most favorable at present, it will place the College in a most excellent position financially. And it should inspire all the friends of the College to greater efforts in its behalf.

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WESTFIELD COLLEGE

Possesses Thoroughly Trained Teachers

Uses the Most Recent Text-Books

Employs Modern Methods of Teaching

IT STANDS FOR

Scholarship

Character